Gotha P.60A heavy fighter

January 1945

The Gotha P.60 heavy fighter the project resulted from the development work carried out by the Gotha company on the Horten Ho IX. This was initially intended to culminate in series production as a structurally improved Go 229.

Gotha was requested by the Oberkommando der Luftwaffe (OKL – Luftwaffe High Command) to incorporate the experience gained from the Horten Ho IX/Go 229 into a new design.

OKL requirements included:

- A crew of two.
- A pressure sealed high altitude cabin.
- A standard tricycle undercarriage.
- A greater range than the Go 229.
- The option of installing more powerful engines.

Gotha's head of design, Ing Hünerjäger, and his chief aerodynamicist, Dr Göthert, also incorporated the latest high speed research into their design, a move which was not accepted without a certain amount of reservation by Walter and Reimar Horten. They also evaluated the most recent developments in alternative construction and the running and operation of turbojet engines.

Structurally, the P.60A and P.60B were identical. The crew was accommodated in a prone position in a pressure sealed cabin fully faired into the nose contours. The airframe consisted of a plywood-skinned tubular steel centre section structure with all-wooden, lattice work outer wings.

Elevators and ailerons were combined in the one control surface (elevon) on the trailing edge of each outermost wing section. Rudder control was provided in a highly unusual manner; two telescopic control surfaces being simultaneously extended above and below each wingtip. Fuel was carried in the outer wings and in a centre-section tank.

Crew

One pilot and one radio operator/navigator in prone position.

Powerplant

Two BMW 003 each rated at 800kP (1,763lb) static thrust.

Dimensions

Span	12.40m	40ft 8in
Sweep	46° at 0.25 chord	
Wing area	46.8m²	503ft²
Length overall	9.50m	31ft 2in
Height overall	3.15m	10ft 4in

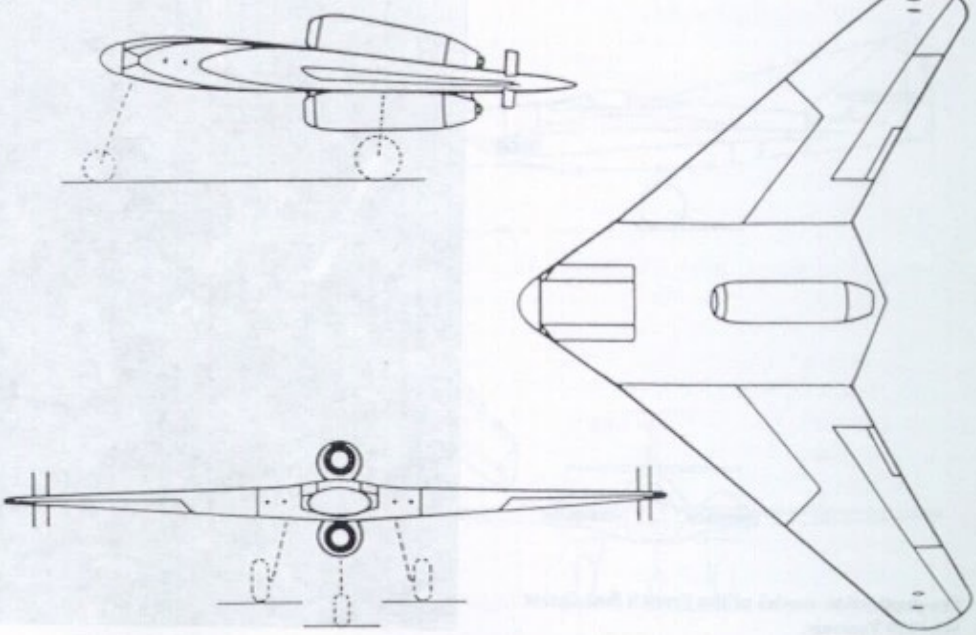
Weights

Empty equipped	4,190kg	9,237lb
Loaded	7,450kg with approx 2,500 litres of fuel	16,424lb with approx 550 gallons of fuel

Performance

Max speed	915km/h at 7,000m	568mph at 20,000ft
Initial rate of climb	14m/sec	46ft/sec
Service ceiling	12,500m	41,000ft
Time to 8,000m	14.1 minutes ,	26,250ft
Time to 10,000m	21.5 minutes	32,800ft
Endurance at 100% thrust	approx 2 hours at 12,000m	39,000ft
Range at 100% thrust	approx 1,600km at 12,000m	994 miles 39,000ft

Armament

As heavy fighter: Four 30mm MK 108 or two 30mm MK 103 cannon in wing centre section to left and right of crew cabin.

As reconnaissance aircraft (secondary role): two Rb 50/18 cameras.